

NC Legislative Update

SB 695 RESTRAINING OF DOGS sponsored by Sen. Linda Garrou (D, Forsyth) has been WITHDRAWN.

HB 626 Restraining of Dogs Sponsors Douglas Yongue (D, Hoke, Robeson, Scotland); Susan Fisher (D, Buncombe); Daniel McComas (R, New Hanover); Justin Burr (R, Montgomery, Stanly, Union); cosponsors Reps. Cary Allred and Rick Glazier. DIED in Committee.

SB 515 Prohibit Penning Of Wildlife. Sponsor: Sen. Neal Hunt (R-Wake) DIED in Committee.

SB 739 Prohibit Penning Of Wildlife Sponsors: Stan Bingham (R, Guilford, Davidson); Steve Goss (D, Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes); Neal Hunt (R, Wake); Richard Stevens, (R, Wake). DIED in Committee.

S1062 An Act Strengthening Domestic Violence Protective Orders To Provide For The Protection Of Pets. Expands protective orders to cover possession of personal property of the parties, including the care, custody, and control of any animal owned, possessed, kept, or held as a pet by either party or minor child residing in the household. Passed Senate; read on the House floor 5/18 and was referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

S467 An Act To Expand Application Of The Law Concerning The Holding And Disposal Of Unclaimed Animals. The bill confirms 72-hour holding period, expands description of public access to assist owners in reclaiming lost or impounded animals, adds provision to scan for microchips. S467 passed the Senate on 5/14; was read on the House floor, referred to House Agriculture where a committee substitute was offered; referred to Judiciary I.

H1063 and S674 Amend Rabies Law. Both bills add ferrets to animals required to be vaccinated for rabies. H1063 has been referred to House Finance Committee; S674 is expected to be referred shortly to the House Health Committee.

The HSUS **Commercial Breeder bills H733** sponsored by Representatives Pat McElraft (R, Carteret, Jones), Margaret Highsmith Dickson (D, Cumberland), Efton Sager (R, Wayne), Lucy Allen (D, Halifax, Franklin, Nash), **and S460** sponsored by Sen. Don Davis (D, Greene, Pitt, Wayne) have financial impact on the state in the form of departmental costs and projected revenue from licensing fees. These types of bills are not subject to the crossover deadline on May 14th. H733 and S460 remain active bills for the remainder of the 2009-2010 session. H733 remains in the House Agriculture Committee. It is our understanding that H460 is again being revised by Senator Davis.

None of the bills pertaining to allowed methods of euthanasia for use by animal shelters and certification of euthanasia technicians survived committees. Additional updates will be posted on our website as needed.

Producers, Public Urged To Stand Firm Against NAIS

Billings, Mont. – Although R-CALF USA is pleased the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced locations for six more National Animal Identification System (NAIS) listening sessions to allow more opportunity for public input, the group remains suspicious of the agency's motives.

“These listening sessions aren't going well for USDA, as the agency is running into much more opposition to NAIS than it ever bargained for,” said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard. “But rather than announce that NAIS will be withdrawn and the remaining sessions used to develop a strategy to prevent, control and eradicate diseases, USDA persists in addressing only NAIS. We think USDA's plan continues to be to glean from everyone's comments anything good that is said about NAIS so the agency can compile a report to forge ahead and implement NAIS after making only minor tweaks to the program.

“USDA doesn't yet get it,” he asserted. “From speaking with our members who have participated in the listening sessions, we understand that after each morning session where the public is given three minutes to express their concerns, USDA is dividing the audience into three groups during the afternoon and is then trying to get the audience to focus only on USDA's own questions on how to improve NAIS,” Bullard continued.

“When the audience agrees to begin focusing on USDA's specific questions, the fact that NAIS is totally unacceptable and fundamentally flawed becomes of secondary importance,” he emphasized.

“In other words, if USDA is allowed to frame the debate to that of focusing only on how to fix NAIS, then our opportunity to stop NAIS in its tracks is weakened,” Bullard explained. “To counter USDA's plan, the audience must stand firm and demand that USDA overturn NAIS in its entirety and demand that USDA make a public announcement that it will no longer pursue NAIS.

“The audience should further inform USDA that after NAIS has been scraped completely, then U.S. livestock producers would be happy to sit down with USDA to develop an overall strategy to improve the United States' ability to prevent, control, and eradicate livestock diseases and to develop a separate strategy to improve the safety of meat,” he pointed out.

The participants at the listening sessions that have been held so far have done just this, and USDA is now frustrated in its inability to get the audience to focus only on how to improve its fundamentally flawed NAIS proposal. This is probably why more NAIS-specific sessions have been planned – to give USDA another bite at the apple to accomplish its goal of gleaning positive comments out of people who understand that NAIS fundamentally violates the rights and freedoms of U.S. livestock producers.

“It is a sad day in America when USDA arrives to tell you that, after more than 200 years, U.S. livestock producers don't know how to raise healthy livestock,” Bullard concluded. “This is your industry so stand your ground! We will win this fight, but it will take all of us to do it. If you are within driving distance of one of the upcoming listening sessions, we urge to attend and make your opposition heard.”

USDA has announced additional NAIS listening sessions as follows: June 9, Jefferson City, Mo.; June 11, Rapid City, S.D.; June 16, Albuquerque, N.M.; June 18, Riverside, Calif.; **June 25, Raleigh, N.C.**, and, June 27, Jasper, Fla. The exact location where each of the new listening session will be held within each of the listed cities is not yet known.

Disaster Preparedness for Animal Owners

NCSU: Be Ready for Anything! Saturday, June 20, 2009

North Carolinians face potential weather-related emergencies throughout the year - thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and winter storms to name a few. You may be required to leave your home at moment's notice as a hurricane approaches - or perhaps be confined to your home for an extended period of time after a devastating winter storm. Is your whole family, including your animals, prepared?

Participants will learn how to create a disaster plan and kit for their animals; what behavioral changes their pets may exhibit under stressful conditions; basic animal first aid; and information about volunteering in a disaster or emergency situation.

Registration

Registration for this course is \$59 paid before June 13, 2009, and \$79 paid after June 13. Registration includes lectures and a proceedings manual on CD-ROM. A registration form is available online. This course is intended to be for lay people. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are welcome, but may not earn CVME hours for attending this course.

Location & Lodging

This course will be held at the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine at 4700 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh, NC. For information go to: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/conted/disaster.html>

Study: Household Income Strong Predictor Whether Cats Are Neutered

About 80 percent of cats living in U.S. households are neutered, according to a new study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The telephone survey of 1,205 adults, representing 850 cats, further revealed that annual family income was the strongest predictor of whether cats in the household were neutered, with middle- to higher-income households reporting rates of more than 90 percent.

The peer-reviewed study is said to be the first nationally representative study to thoroughly examine the correlation between income and neuter status. The study was based on data collected by Harris Interactive for the nonprofit group Alley Cat Allies.

“This study indicates that spaying and neutering is an accepted, established practice among the large majority of Americans with pet cats,” said Becky Robinson, president of Alley Cat Allies. “This is a very positive finding. As a result, our nation’s pet cats are living much healthier lives.”

The proportion of cats that were neutered differed significantly across annual family income groups:

- **96.2** percent of cats in households with an income of \$75,000 were neutered.
- **90.7** percent of cats in households with an income of \$35,000 to \$74,999 were neutered.
- **51.4** percent of cats in households with an income of less than \$35,000 were neutered.

“Up until now, there has been a lot of speculation that income is a barrier for neuter in lower-income families, but now we have a scientific study establishing that this is the case nationally,” Robinson said. Wendy Anderson, director of law and policy at Alley Cat Allies and co-author of the study, pointed out that the study includes only household cats.

“Previous research has shown there may be just as many stray and feral cats in the U.S. as pet cats, and most of these cats are intact and breeding,” Anderson said. “We need to enact smart policies and programs that expand the availability of low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter services, not only to serve lower-income pet owners, but to provide services for feral cats as well.”

Source: Veterinary Practice News: May 2009

EPA to Evaluate Topical Flea and Tick Products

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on pesticide products for flea and tick control due to recent increases in the number of reported adverse reactions in pets treated with these products. Adverse reactions reported range from mild effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, death of the pet.

Flea and tick products can be appropriate treatments for protecting your pets and your family’s health because fleas and ticks can transmit disease. While many people use the products with no harm to their pets, EPA recommends that pet owners take precautions when using these products. People should carefully follow label directions and monitor their pets for any signs of an adverse reaction after application, particularly when using these products for the first time. Also, before use of these products on weak, aged, medicated, sick, pregnant or nursing pets, or on pets that have previously shown signs of sensitivity to pesticide products, EPA recommends that a veterinarian be consulted. Additional safety tips are available for [taking care of fleas and ticks on your pet](#).

Pets may experience adverse reactions from flea and tick control products, including spot-on treatments, sprays, collars and shampoos. However, the majority of reports to EPA are related to flea and tick treatments with EPA-registered spot-on products. Spot-on products are generally sold in tubes or vials and are applied to one or more localized areas on the body of the pet, such as in between the shoulders or in a stripe along the back.

The list of products identified by the EPA is posted at www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html.

Canine Survivor Offers Hope For Children With Severe Genetic Disorder

Article Date: 29 May 2009 - 4:00 PDT

A dog born with a deadly disease that prevents the body from using stored sugar has survived 20 months and is still healthy after receiving gene therapy at the University of Florida - putting scientists a step closer to finding a cure for the disorder in children.

Called glycogen storage disease type 1A, the genetic disease stops the body from being able to correctly store and use sugar between meals. In order to survive, children and adults with this disease must receive precise doses of cornstarch every few hours. The disease is even more dire in dogs, which must be fed sugar every 30 minutes to survive.

"Without treatment, these dogs all die," said David Weinstein, M.D., M.M.Sc., director of the UF Glycogen Storage Disease Program and co-investigator on the study. "People usually survive because they are fed so much as infants. But by 4 to 6 months of age, they will have developmental delays and a big liver. If it is diagnosed at that point, the kids can do fine. If it is not diagnosed, then the kids get exposed to recurrent low sugars, and they will end up with brain damage, seizures or they will die."

UF researcher Cathryn Mah, Ph.D., a member of the Powell Gene Therapy Center and UF Genetics Institute, will present the findings at an American Society of Gene Therapy meeting this weekend in San Diego.

About one in 100,000 children have this severe form of glycogen storage disease. Children receive doses of cornstarch at scheduled intervals throughout the day because it metabolizes more slowly than other carbohydrates. Until this therapy was discovered about 30 years ago, most children born with this disease did not survive past infancy.

Glycogen storage disease type 1A stems from a faulty enzyme that doesn't convert stored sugar, or glycogen, to glucose, the type of sugar the body uses for energy. This prevents the body from getting the energy it needs and causes glycogen to build up in the liver.

The goal of gene therapy is to restore the faulty enzyme so the body uses sugar properly, said Mah, a UF assistant professor of pediatric cellular and molecular therapy and a co-investigator on the study.

The dog, which comes from a line of dogs genetically prone to the disease, received its first dose of gene therapy the day after it was born, Mah said. The dog improved at first, often going as long as two to three hours without needing additional glucose to supplement its diet. But several weeks later the progress stopped.

When the dog was 5 months old, the researchers administered another dose of gene therapy, this time using a different type of AAV. Six weeks after the therapy, the dog was completely weaned off glucose supplements.

Researchers hope to eventually establish a clinical trial in humans, but for now would like to test gene therapy in dogs again within the next year, Weinstein said.

"This is very exciting work and holds great promise for treatment of the disease in humans," said Joseph Wolfsdorf, M.B., B.Ch., a pediatric endocrinologist at Children's Hospital Boston and professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School who studies glycogen storage disease in children.

Finding better treatments for the glycogen storage disease is crucial because the disorder is still associated with multiple complications, and care remains a challenge. As a result of the lack of expertise in this condition, children and adults also must travel to special centers for care. With more than 300 patients from 18 countries, University of Florida's Glycogen Storage Disease Program is the largest in the world.

Source: *Medical News Today* <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/151899.php>

World's Oldest Living Dog

ST. PETERSBURG — Joe Slatton of St. Petersburg wasn't impressed when he learned NBC's *Today Show* had featured what it deemed the world's oldest living dog at 21.

Slatton says that at the time the show aired May 6, he was most likely out walking his 23-year-old Shih Tzu, Smokey.

"My wife told me about the show," Slatton said. "Of course she knew too, that Smokey was way older than that dog on TV." The show featured Chantal, 21, a dachshund mix. Records at the VCA St. Petersburg Animal Hospital show Smokey was born Jan. 18, 1986. But Smokey's got a long way to go to become the world's oldest dog ever. Bluey, an Australian cattle dog that died in 1939, holds the Guinness World Record at 29.5 years.

Montana Horse Slaughter Bill Becomes Law

Legislation to allow investor-owned horse slaughterhouses in Montana became law last week when Gov. Brian Schweitzer neither signed nor vetoed the action, according to the Associated Press. The law limits opportunities for legal action against such investors.

Other legislative efforts in support of the horse industry are being considered for introduction in a number of states, including Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Washington and Tennessee, according to Farmonline.com's Stock and Land publication.

Many legislators and others agree, Stock and Land reported, that it is unlikely that foreign investors will risk investing in U.S. horse harvesting plants until other bills pending in Congress are defeated, including the 2009 Prevention of Cruelty to Equines Act and the Prohibit Horses for Human Consumption Act.

Pender County Commissioners Reject License Fees

Overworked animal control officers in Pender County may get relief if more officers are hired, but the county's ordinances won't be changed to help fund their enforcement efforts. The board of commissioners unanimously rejected amended animal control ordinances that would have required registration of domestic animals for a fee and proof of a rabies vaccination. The proposal also would have placed licensing regulations on kennels that produce more than four litters annually. The proposed \$10 annual fee for each domestic animal and kennel fees ranging from \$20 to \$70 would have been used to supplement animal control funding, which is under the county's health department.

More than 60 hunters attended a public hearing Monday at Topsail High School to let the board know of their strong objections to the ordinances approved by the county's board of health and presented by Health Director Jack Griffith.

Commissioners' Chairman Jimmy Tate said he opposed the fees and no speakers favored the ordinance changes. Commissioner George Brown said he didn't think the ordinance changes would help regulate irresponsible pet owners and proposed the county consider increasing funding for animal control instead. Tate then directed Griffith to return to a later meeting with a proposal for increased funding.

Urban Chickens

Chicken enthusiasts are fighting for their right to keep the birds in backyard coops in many big cities where the practice is illegal. Urban chickens are latest trend for those city dwellers who want to have a hand in raising their own food. Across the country, people are joining the national urban chicken movement, often going against local ordinances to do so.

Supporters say the movement started with the rationale that raising chickens fits well with efforts to raise local and pure foods. Those supporters also call the eggs "fresh" and "flavorful," and many call the chickens entertaining pets.

In many instances, cities are going along with the movement, changing laws to allow residents to raise a limited number of chickens. Madison, Wis., began allowing chickens in 2004, and New York City has long allowed the birds. Other cities where you can legally raise chickens include Chicago; Albuquerque, N.M.; Portland, Ore.; and Seattle, Wash.

Cary NC's Town Council turned down an idea, by a 4-3 vote, to look into allowing laying hens throughout the town. "We do allow chickens in Cary" in areas that allow homes on 40,000 square-foot lots, Erv Portman said. "I don't think we should expand it."

Current rules in Stallings, NC require residents to live on lots two acres or larger to keep farm animals. After a mother's request for a zoning change in order to keep 3 pet hens, Town planners offered the council the option of an amended ordinance that would allow chickens on lots about a half-acre or larger, but the town staff did not support the change.

Sanford NC, however, recently approved an ordinance change to allow chicken keeping. ■

Animal Hoarding

It is estimated that at least 250,000 animals fall victim to animal hoarders each year, according to Tufts University's Animal Hoarding Research Consortium, a group that acts to increase awareness about the disorder. Because our legal system is not very effective in prosecuting hoarders, and many refuse mental health counseling, the best way to help is for communities to play an active role in prevention.

Everyone has heard of the "crazy cat lady," the older woman who lives alone and has more than the average number of feline friends roaming around. But just because a person has a lot of animals, does not necessarily make them a hoarder. What separates an animal hoarder from an overzealous animal lover is the animal's care, living conditions, and ability to receive veterinary treatment. Hoarders are unable to meet their pet's most minimal needs, yet they think they are the only person in the world who can give the best care to their animals.

Hoarder's residences can also be extremely cluttered, sometimes with non-functional appliances and sanitation so poor as to impair the household from being functional.

Abstract from a Theoretical Perspective to Inform Assessment and Treatment Strategies for Animal Hoarders by Gary J. Patronek & Jane N. Nathanson

Animal hoarding is a poorly understood, maladaptive, destructive behavior whose etiology and pathology are only beginning to emerge. We compare and contrast animal hoarding to the compulsive hoarding of objects and proceed to draw upon attachment theory, the literature of personality disorder and trauma, and our own clinical experience to propose a developmental trajectory. Throughout life, there is a persistent struggle to form a functional attachment style and achieve positive social integration. For some people, particularly those affected by a dysfunctional primary attachment experience in childhood, a protective, comforting relationship with animals may form an indelible imprint. In adulthood, when human attachment has been chronically problematic, compulsive caregiving of animals can become the primary means of maintaining or building a sense of self. Improving assessment and treatment of animal hoarders requires attention to contributing psychosocial conditions, while taking into account the centrality of the animals to the hoarder's identity, self esteem and sense of control. It is our hope that the information presented will provide a basis upon which clinicians can focus their own counseling style, assessment, and methods of treatment.

The report can be found at the NCRAOA on the Shelter and Rescue Pets page and at this link http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/pubs/AnimalHoarding_WEB.pdf

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